

We seem to have a media emergency because of the Sinclair Broadcast Group. This corporation is apparently instructing its 62 local stations to pre-empt regular programming to air a Kerry smear piece. This is being done in battleground states and two weeks before the election. This unprecedented move would be, as I understand it, direct electioneering by a corporate media giant --and against federal election law.

Sinclair is apparently willing to take this risk to their business because this is an election that is very close and the election of George Bush is important to corporate giants. It seems to be the citizens and the FCC's job to make corporations such as this, understand exactly the risk they taking when choosing to pursue partisanship rather than a balanced reporting of information.

Each of the local stations have a responsibility by law to serve their community interests. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media control and one sided reporting.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the company's profit line and less of what we need for maintaining our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules and remind them of their obligation to the public right to know. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more evaluation and recommendation than a stamp of approval.

Thank you for your time and efforts in this matter very important and crucial issue for our democracy.